

House Resolution 1266

By: Representative Manning of the 32nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Children: Newborns to Age Five; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's children are Georgia's future; and

4 WHEREAS, preschool children are confronted with many crucial developmental tasks,
5 including developing small and large motor skills, learning to speak and developing
6 vocabulary, developing self-confidence, developing the ability to play cooperatively with
7 other children, learning to share and respect the rights of others, developing hand eye
8 coordination, learning to feed and dress themselves, learning to solve simple problems
9 through reasoning, and learning to express feelings and ideas;

10 WHEREAS, to develop to their full potential, preschool children need a loving, nurturing
11 relationship with their parents or guardians; good nutrition; screening for developmental and
12 health problems; good role models; and adequate exercise, stimulation, play, and
13 communication; and

14 WHEREAS, the youngest children cannot speak for themselves, and a preschool child who
15 is experiencing a lack of some element vital for healthy development may not get the help
16 needed; and

17 WHEREAS, one cost of our mobile society is that parents often do not have an extended
18 family to advise and help with rearing children, and some parents need education about child
19 development stages or other aspects of parenting to help their children develop to their fullest
20 potential;

21 WHEREAS, better coordination of existing programs and services could help identify all of
22 Georgia's children who need some assistance to thrive; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2005, HR 518 was passed originally creating the House Study Committee on
2 Children: Newborns to Age Five, which worked over a five-month period in 2005 with the
3 State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Planning Committee, a committee comprised
4 of representatives from various agencies to implement the federal Early Childhood
5 Comprehensive Systems planning grant awarded to the state, to complete a joint study of
6 issues pertaining to Georgia's young children (newborns to age five); and

7 WHEREAS, the House Study Committee on Children: Newborns to Age Five created by HR
8 518 and automatically abolished effective December 31, 2005, agreed on 12
9 recommendations to serve as priorities for Georgia's three-year Early Childhood
10 Comprehensive Systems Plan Implementation Schedule, and the first five of these
11 recommendations include:

- 12 1. Develop navigator teams in each county to direct families to resources;
- 13 2. Provide affordable and appropriate parenting educational opportunities for parents of
14 all backgrounds through a number of access points, including the early education system,
15 pediatric health care system, community organizations, faith based organizations, and
16 others;
- 17 3. Develop training standards and guidelines that provide a consistent, research based
18 framework for the provision of training to all staff that work in programs that provide
19 services to children from birth to five years old and their families;
- 20 4. Provide access to evidence based practices in early childhood through the development
21 and maintenance of a clearinghouse that provides high quality information for parents and
22 professionals; and
- 23 5. Develop a state-wide system of training and technical support for parenting education;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Planning Committee has
26 completed a draft document entitled *Bright Beginnings and Healthy Futures: A Blueprint*
27 *for Improving the Education, Health, and Well-Being of Georgia's Young Children*
28 *(Newborns to Age Five) and Their Families* which includes identifying current resources,
29 best practices, and gaps and barriers related to the areas of access to medical home and
30 insurance, social-emotional development and mental health of young children, early care and
31 education, family support, and parenting education; and

32 WHEREAS, it is determined to be in the best interests of the state to reinstate the House
33 Study Committee on Children: Newborns to Age Five for another year to continue its work

1 with the State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Planning Committee to support its
2 efforts in completing and implementing *Bright Beginnings and Healthy Futures: A Blueprint*
3 *for Improving the Education, Health, and Well-Being of Georgia's Young Children*
4 *(Newborns to Age Five) and Their Families* and to incorporate the recommendations of the
5 House Study Committee on Children: Newborns to Age Five into the blueprint.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
7 there is created the House Study Committee on Children: Newborns to Age Five to be
8 composed of five members. Five members of the House of Representatives shall be
9 appointed to the committee by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to include one
10 member who has a child under age five. The Speaker shall designate a member of the
11 committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the
12 committee.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
14 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
15 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
16 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
17 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
18 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
19 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
20 Georgia Annotated from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. The
21 allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the
22 committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. The committee is
23 authorized to use funds available from federal grants or other grants for the purposes of the
24 committee. Staff support for the committee may be provided by the Department of Early
25 Care and Learning and the Family Connection Partnership. The committee may call upon
26 the expertise of the Family Health Unit of the Public Health Division of the Department of
27 Human Resources, the Department of Education, the director and employees of Smart Start,
28 the School of Family and Consumer Sciences of the University of Georgia, the Association
29 of Pediatricians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control and
30 Prevention, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, local Family Connection organizations, the
31 cooperative extension service, persons with expertise in early childhood development,
32 dietitians, child care providers, county health departments, pediatricians, the commissioner
33 and staff of the Department of Early Care and Learning, the Barton Child Law and Policy
34 Clinic of Emory University, the Family Connection Partnership, the Department of

1 Education, and members of the business community. In the event the committee makes a
2 report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any,
3 such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2006. The committee shall stand
4 abolished on December 1, 2006.